FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO: Department of State

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FROM: LAGOS 294 June 26, 1950

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REF: Consulate General's Despatch No. 266 of June 6, 1950

SUBJECT: Political and Economic Events in Nigeria for the Two-week Period Ending June 17, 1950.

no action required 7/13/50 [illegible]

For Dept. use only. JUL 4

RECD ACTION INFO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 7/16/80

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DELASSIFIED RELEASABLE

CLASSIFIED DENIED

EXCEPTIONS

Separate despatches and telegrams have been sent on press items like the Fitzgerald Report on the Enugu incident.

The arrival of Mr. Hardy W. CROXTON (Consulate General's telegram No. 74 of June 13, 1950 to the Department) has improved the personnel position considerably. It would be amusing, if it were not serious, that the temporary addition of one American authorized to handle classified material for the regular program means an increase of 33-1/3 per cent in this category for the time being!

The news that Vice Consul Kenneth A. BYRNS (Department's A-36 of June 10, 1950) may arrive about Mid-August is cheering; there is no definite news yet regarding the arrival of American Clerk Joseph D. CAPRI.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Military Attaches from Pretoria Visit Lagos

Colonel DAVIS, Military Attache, Lt. Colonel BLAND, Air Attache, and Major HARSHBARGER, Assistant Air Attache, from Embassy Pretoria stopped at Lagos June 9th. They had attended the Military Attache Conference at Frankfort, Germany, and were on their way back to Pretoria. Colonels Davis and Bland were presented to the Governor of Nigeria, Sir John MACPHERSON, who is naturally interested in the Military Assistance Program. They left June 10th at dawn.

Two British MPs Visit Nigeria

Colonel Walter ELLIOTT, Conservative Member of the British Parliament and former Cabinet Officer, and Mr. Geoffrey BING, a Labour Member, were in Lagos at Government House two weeks ago at the same time. It was an interesting opportunity for the locals to compare notes. Unauthoritative opinion indicates that a general election might be called in the United Kingdom around October.

745H.00/6-2650

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

British Survey Committee for Enugu Colliery

Referring to despatch No. 284 of June 15, 1950 on the subject "Fitzgerald Report on Enugu Riots", the first three members of the committee appointed by the Colonial Secretary to survey the Nigerian coal industry in accordance with the recommendations and arrangements between the Secretary and the Governor are expected to arrive in Nigeria this month. They will be Messrs. Edward CAIN, a pitworker, Phillip WEEKES, a mining engineer from British coal mines, and E. PARRY, Assistant Labour Adviser to the Colonial Secretary. A little later the remaining two members, Colonel C. E. PONSONBY, representing the British Employers' Federation, and Andrew DALGLEISH of the Trade Union Congress will arrive.

British Finance Commission To Visit Nigeria

In connection with the proposals for Constitutional Reform, the Colonial Office is sending out a three-man commission to inquire into the proposed distribution of part of the Central Government revenues among the three regional administrations or if the Colony proper and parts of the Cameroons should be treated separately among all four or five units. The Commission will consist of Professor J. R. HICKS, Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, Mr. D. A. SKELTON, Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce (on loan to London) and Sir Sydney PHILLIPSON, former Financial Secretary of Nigeria and now a Commissioner on Special Duty. It is hoped that their report will be available for study by a special committee of the Nigerian Legislative Council in August.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Writer Calls for American Visitors to Nigeria

The weekly West Africa in its edition of May 6th contained the following interesting closing paragraphs in an article entitled "A Definite Policy for Nigeria?" which was No. 6 in a series on "Dangerous Driving In Nigeria" by E. F. G. HAIG:

> "In order to implement this, or any other African policy, with proper strength and continuity, Britain must achieve the whole-hearted consent and support of America, and if possible of the United Nations also. I for one am convinced that once Americans understand our aims and policy and realise actual conditions in Nigeria they will back us up. But the present lack of liaison between Nigeria and America is alarming.
>
> "In Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa and by far the greatest territory now controlled by the British Parliament, there should be a constant stream of influential

American visitors, if not a permanent American Study Commission. We can hardly expect understanding support from quarters which we do not keep effectively informed."

Mr. Haig was until 1939 an Administrative Officer in Nigeria and was seconded toward the end of his service as Registrar of Cooperative Societies in this country. He is now believed to have retired in the United Kingdom.

Medical Note

Referring to despatch No. 263 of June 5, 1950 on "Progress of African Natives in Nigeria and the British Cameroons", it may be noted that an administrative official of the Nigerian Medical Department estimates that there may be less than 300 physicians and surgeons in the whole of the territory. This figure includes officers dealing with public health and medical administration, and missionary doctors, as well as a substantial number of African medical assistants whose qualifications do not meet the requirements for physicians and surgeons in the United Kingdom and whose employment is comparable to that of enlisted specialists in the American Armed Forces. It therefore may be estimated that Nigeria's thirty million people have to be served on an average basis of perhaps one medical man for every hundred thousand people.

Press Sedition and Contempt Cases

The West African Pilot, the Labour Champion and the Daily Service of Lagos are in difficulties with the law. The Editor of the Labour Champion was fined £200-0-0 for contempt and his associates smaller amounts. The indictments against the Zik Press (West African Pilot) and the Left-of-Center Daily Service for publishing seditious matters have been postponed but will be heard shortly. Furthermore, Nduka EZE of the Labour Champion is being sued for collecting money from the public without obtaining permission from the Government. This case deals with his so-called National Scholarship Board and his requirement that applicants pay £1-0-0 each for registration (reference despatch No. 288 of June 16, 1950). As he is also Secretary to the United Africa Company's employees' union (although no longer an employee of that Company) he is levying an assessment of 2 shillings on each laborer and 4 shillings on each higher employee to pay his fine. Another item with reference to him: he has protested in his paper that the Nigerian Government has refused to issue him a passport to attend the "Union Conference for Negro Rights under the auspices of the Council on African Affairs" in the United States.

Parenthetically, these sedition cases have no reference to the Enugu Incident. They were instituted before the publication of the Fitzgerald Commission Report, but naturally they are being

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associated by uninformed persons with it. The timing of the prosecutions is therefore not fortunate.

Willard Quincy Stanton
American Consul General

Copy to American Embassy, London.

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